

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 394.]

ESTIMATES OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

LETTER

FROM

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL,

EXPLAINING

*The reason in each case wherein the estimates for the service of the Post Office Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1849, exceed the appropriations for the preceding or current year.*

APRIL 7, 1848.

Ordered to be printed.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, April 3, 1848.

SIR: I had the honor to receive your letter of the 1st instant in relation to the estimates for the service of this department for the fiscal year commencing 1st July, 1848, and I now proceed to explain, in compliance with your request, the reason in each case where the estimates exceed the appropriations for the preceding or current year.

The appropriations and estimates for the years mentioned are put in comparison, as follows:

	Appropriations, year comm'g July 1, 1847.	Estimates, year comm'g July 1, 1848.
For transportation of the mails within the United States -	\$2,441,391	\$2,540,700
For transportation of the mail in steamships from New York to Bremen, by contract with E. Mills, at \$100,000 for each ship per annum - - -	258,609	400,000
	<hr/> 2,700,000	<hr/> 2,940,700
For compensation to postmasters	1,042,000	1,075,000
For ship, steamboat, and way letters - - -	17,000	25,000
For wrapping paper - - -	16,000	18,000
For office furniture, (for offices of postmasters) - - -	3,000	3,000
Tippin & Streeper, printers.		

For advertising - - -	\$30,000	\$35,000
For mail bags - - -	20,000	25,000
For blanks - - -	17,000	18,000
For mail locks, keys, and stamps	4,000	5,000
For mail depredations and special agents - - -	13,000	12,000
For clerks for offices, (the offices of postmasters) - - -	225,000	230,000
For miscellaneous - - -	50,000	55,000
	<u>4,137,000</u>	<u>4,441,700</u>

In making the estimate for transportation of the mails during the year ending June 30, 1849, the actual expenditure for that object in the year ending June 30, 1847, was taken as the basis, thus:

Paid for the transportation of the mail, year ending June 30, 1847 - - - - -	\$2,476,455
Deduct the estimated saving in the new contract in the south section, commenced July 1, 1847 - - - - -	108,697
	<u>2,367,758</u>
Add for new routes put in operation since July 1, 1847 - - - - -	42,943
Probable cost of new post routes and new or improved service in the year 1849 - - - - -	130,000
	<u>2,540,701</u>
Estimated cost of inland transportation - - - - -	2,540,701
Four steamships between New York and Bremen, according to contract with E. Mills, at \$100,000 each per year - - - - -	400,000
	<u>2,940,701</u>

The whole increase in the estimates for transportation is \$240,700. Of this sum \$99,310 is for inland transportation, and \$141,390 for the ocean mail steamers between New York and Bremen. The increase in the estimate for inland transportation is accounted for above; that for the New York and Bremen line is founded upon the assumption that the Ocean Steam Navigation Company will, according to the contract with Mr. Mills, have four steamers in operation during the whole year, while in the estimate for the current year it was assumed that two steamers would be in operation the whole year, and one for a little more than half the year.

The increase of \$33,000 in the item of "compensation to postmasters," is the natural result of increased commissions arising from an expected increase in the revenue.

The expenditure for "wrapping paper" during the year ending June 30, 1847, was \$18,171 42; therefore, it was deemed expedient to provide nearly the same amount for the coming year.

An increase of \$5,000 in the item of "advertising," is asked for to defray the probable additional expense of advertising such new routes as may be created by Congress.

A similar increase in the item of "mail bags" will probably be required for new routes, and to provide for the increase in the bulk of mail matter.

The steady increase in the business of the post offices makes it necessary to augment the estimate for "blanks" \$1,000; and for the same reason \$1,000 is added to the estimate for "mail locks, keys, and stamps." A like reason applies to the increase of \$5,000 asked for the compensation of "clerks for offices."

The expenditure for "miscellaneous" purposes for the year ending 30th June last amounted to \$59,402 40; but as the collection of debts and other law expenses of the department will hereafter be less expensive, it was not deemed necessary to ask for a greater increase than \$5,000; which is \$4,402 40 less than the expenditure of the last year.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. JOHNSON.

HON. SAMUEL F. VINTON,

*Chairman Committee Ways and  
Means, House of Representatives.*

